

# School Business Alert

August 31, 2010

The Iowa Department of Education (IDE) will soon begin its fall data collections. As school leaders in our state, you are well aware of the value of accurate, timely data to help form the decisions we make every day.

We, at the IDE, value the time and effort it takes you to meet state-mandated requirements for reporting data.

While the state reporting systems demonstrate daily to have the capacity for normal traffic, the additional surge or spike in usage during some reporting times has been an issue.

Please know that the IDE has taken several steps to address this issue during the fall 2010 collection period:

## **Processing performance has been enhanced.**

Programming changes were implemented to the applications themselves to enhance processing performance. In addition, network infrastructure changes were made to optimize application performance.

## **System availability focused on reports needed during specific time frame.**

During the fall 2010 reporting period, there will be a window — October 5-20 — when only certain applications are available, instead of past practice where all applications are left open all. After the reporting window, the other applications will reopen. Following is a list of applications that will be open October 5-20:

Available for input from October 5-20:

- Certified Enrollment/Nonpublic
- Certified Supplementary Weighting
- Commodities
- Direct Free Lunch Certification
- I-STAR
- PEACE (Certified Enrollment)
- Project EASIER Fall 2010
- School Lunch
- Security Application

## State ID

No other reports will be accessible for data entry during this time.

An up-to-date list of what is accessible at any point in time can be accessed from the Edinfo Web page (<https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us>)

PEACE has as a component the certified enrollment count, which is taken on October 1 and due by October 15. The new process tracks student enrollment to determine appropriate funding. Districts are required to iteratively “reconcile” students. Due to this process, including added functionality to the software in this year’s version and the importance of the certified enrollment count, priority was given to this collection.

### **IDE will also closely monitor usage on the system and, if necessary, implement other access procedures.**

If the load on the IDE system becomes too great or surges beyond hardware capacity, IDE may only allow some districts access on certain days, alternating in some fashion. So please, if at all possible, submit early.

The IDE has and will continue to seek district input on how to best handle access, if it becomes an issue.

The IDE is upgrading some systems with federal monies, but these are categorical monies and must be spent for specific purposes. Therefore, additional enhancements—such as hardware purchases—are not possible at this time.

Due dates for other data collections vary; please consult the specific application on EdInfo and/or consultant for information.

Thank you for your help in maximizing our system performance. For GENERAL questions, please call Kim Wilson at (515) 281-3757 or [kim.wilson@iowa.gov](mailto:kim.wilson@iowa.gov). For questions about a specific application, please call the consultant assigned to it, which may be found on that application’s page.